



MARINES

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION YUMA

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Harrier, F-35 Group Commander departs, welcomes McPhillips

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION YUMA, Ariz. (May 21, 2013) – Marine Aircraft Group 13 is scheduled to hold a change of command ceremony for its incoming and outgoing commanding officers aboard Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz. Thurs, May 23 at 9 a.m.

During the ceremony, Col. Michael Gough will relinquish command to Col. Christopher McPhillips as the commanding officer of MAG-13.

Gough, who took command of MAG-13 in May 2010 and oversaw the build-up and arrival of the F-35B Lightning II to MCAS Yuma, will transfer to Camp Pendleton and serve as the I Marine Expeditionary Force Chief of Staff. A naval aviator since 1989, Gough previously served in Yuma as a Harrier Pilot with Marine Attack Squadron 211 for two tours and as the commander of VMA-311.

McPhillips arrives to MAG-13 from the Pentagon where he served in the Office of the Secretary of Defense as a Military Assistant supporting independent advisory groups researching Satellite Acquisitions and Fuel pricing hedging strategies for the Department of Defense. With over 20 years as a naval aviator, McPhillips previously served in Yuma as a Harrier Pilot with VMA-311, as a Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron Pilot Instructor and as Commander of VMA-214 Blacksheeps.

The Commanding Officer of Marine Aircraft Group 13 currently commands the Corps' west coast AV-8B Harrier Squadrons, the Corps' only operational F-35B Lightning II Squadron, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 13 and Marine Wing Support Squadron 371.

Military biographies for both officers are below as a reference. Photos from Col. Gough's final AV-8B Harrier flight as MAG-13 CO can be found at www.dvidshub.net/mcasy this evening. Imagery and video from the Change of Command ceremony will be available at the same site within 48 hours after the event.

For further information or inquiries please contact Cpl. Bill Waterstreet at 928-269-3682 or william.waterstreet@usmc.mil.

COLONEL MICHAEL GOUGH

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS



Colonel Gough graduated from James Madison University in 1988 with a BA in English. He worked in sales in the D.C. area until entering the Marine Corps Officer Candidate School in Nov 1989. After the Basic Officer Course, he reported to Pensacola, Florida for flight training. Following flight school and training as a Harrier pilot, he reported to Marine Attack Squadron 211 in Yuma, Arizona. After three years and two successful six-month deployments, one to Japan and one to the Persian Gulf aboard an amphibious aircraft carrier, he was accepted to the pilot exchange program with the Spanish Navy. Before reporting to Spain, he graduated with honors from the Defense Language Institute. While in Spain, he integrated with the Spanish Armada's 9th Harrier Squadron and worked as the pilot training officer.

Upon completion of the exchange tour in Spain, Colonel Gough returned to Yuma and worked as the Air Group Landing Signal Officer and as the Current Operations Officer. He then was reassigned to Marine Attack Squadron 211, this time as the Aircraft Maintenance Officer. During this tour, he was selected to be the Harrier Detachment Officer-in-charge to the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, which deployed to support Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Post-deployment, he became the Operations Officer for the squadron and once again deployed, this time in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. After returning from Iraq, Colonel Gough attended the Naval War College, graduated with distinction, and was awarded a Master's Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies.

After school, he was assigned to the U.S. Naval Academy, where he coordinated midshipman training and career development. He also served as an adjunct professor to the Language Studies Department and taught 2nd and 3rd year Spanish and public speaking. He was then assigned to a joint billet at U.S. Southern Command in Miami, where he served as the Marine Corps Special Assistant and speech writer for the Combatant Commander. During this assignment, he was awarded the Foreign Area Officer specialty for Latin America and Western Europe. Colonel Gough assumed command of Marine Attack Squadron 311 on May 28, 2009.

During his time as Commander, the Squadron won the Commander of Naval Operations Safety Award, deployed to the Western Pacific in support of 3d Marine Expeditionary Force, and deployed a detachment with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit to support combat operations in Afghanistan.

His personal decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, two Air Medals with combat distinguishing devices, two Flight/Strike Air Medals, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with gold star in lieu of second award, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Spanish Meritorious Cross with white device, and a number of campaign and service awards.

COLONEL CHRISTOPHER A. MCPHILLIPS

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS



Colonel Chris McPhillips was born in Titusville, Florida. He graduated from San Jose State University with a B.S. in Aeronautics and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps in June 1990. Upon completion of Officer and AV-8B Harrier flight training in November 1993, Colonel McPhillips reported to VMA-311 in Yuma, AZ. deploying to the Persian Gulf and Okinawa Japan.

In June 1997, Colonel McPhillips reported to 1st Marine Division to serve as the Assistant Division Air Officer and Division Forward Air Controller during multiple Division exercises, including ULCHI FOCUS LENS in South Korea. In 1998, he was selected to attend the Weapons and Tactics Instructor course at Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics School One (MAWTS-1). He later deployed to Okinawa, Japan. Returning from Okinawa in 1999, he served as the Squadron Maintenance Officer until June 2000.

In July 2000, he was selected to serve as a MAWTS-1 Instructor Pilot and Close Air Support subject matter expert for the Marine Corps. During this tour, he deployed to the Persian Gulf with Marine Air Group 13 as a 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing planner and augment pilot during operations SOUTHERN WATCH and IRAQI FREEDOM. In 2003, he attended USAF Air Command and Staff College in Montgomery, Alabama, graduating in June 2004 with a Masters Degree in Military Operational Science.

Colonel McPhillips reported to Aviation Plans and Policy, Headquarters Marine Corps in July 2004. There he served as the Joint and External matters officer, leading the revision of DoD's Joint Close Air Support Doctrine, as well as development of the Joint Terminal Attack Controller and Joint Fires Observer programs. In 2005, he was selected to Command the VMA-214 "Black Sheep" Squadron in Yuma, Arizona.

After assuming Command in November 2006, Colonel McPhillips deployed with the Squadron to Iwakuni, Japan. During the year-long deployment, the squadron embarked aboard ship and deployed around the Western Pacific in support of 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit and 1st Marine Aircraft operations. In June 2008, he attended the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island where he earned a Master's Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies.

In June 2009, Colonel McPhillips reported to the Pentagon, Washington, D.C. to serve as the Cyber Operations Division Chief Operations Directorate, Joint Chiefs of Staff until he was selected to serve as the Executive Assistant to the J3 Director for Operations, the Joint Staff.

In April 2011, Colonel McPhillips reported to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Defense Business Board to serve as a Military Assistant where he supported independent advisory groups researching Satellite Acquisitions and Fuel price hedging strategies for DOD.

His personal awards include: the Navy Achievement Medal, Air Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation medal, and Defense Superior Service Medal.
